

## **FAMILY GUY**

### **“Brian Goes Back to College” Outline**

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## **ACT ONE**

### **Scene One – Int. A-Team Convention - Day**

Peter and the guys, who are huge A-Team fans, show up dressed as the A-Team: Peter is Hannibal, Cleveland is B.A., Joe is “Howlin’ Mad” Murdock and Quagmire is Face. Brian tags along because he’s been assigned to cover the convention for the Quahog Daily Shopper.

The guys enter the costume contest and win second place. They’re excited and proud.

### **Scene Two – Int. Griffins’ House - Night**

Brian writes about the convention, focusing on fan culture. Stewie taunts Brian because he writes for such a lame “newspaper.” Brian says he’s happy to have his job and he’s come to terms with the fact that the Quahog Daily Shopper is probably the best paper he’ll ever write for. Stewie seconds that.

### **Scene Three – Int. The New Yorker - Day**

The editor of the New Yorker read Brian’s article and loved it. He’s hired Brian to write for the New Yorker. Brian can’t believe it and is eager to start writing. Brian meets the rest of the New Yorker staff and he fits right in. Brian is in heaven.

### **Scene Four – Int. The Drunken Clam – Night**

Peter and the guys, still dressed as the A-Team, celebrate their recent costume victory. Suddenly, the TV reception starts to get a little fuzzy. The patrons grumble to

Horace, but he can't fix it. Peter and the guys snap into action, A-Team style. In an A-Team-esque sequence, the guys get some aluminum foil, wrap it around the antenna, jiggle it a little and fix the reception. The patrons cheer.

High from this accomplished mission, Peter says they can't let their second-place finish in the costume contest be wasted. They owe it to the community to become Quahog's own A-Team. The guys agree. Peter dubs them The AAA-Team, so they can be in the phone book before the A-Team. The guys point out the A-Team operated from the underground, but Peter says they'll surface one day. "And when they do, they'll be second in the phone book. Suckers."

#### **Scene Five – Int. The New Yorker – Day**

The editor calls Brian into his office to praise his first article. In the conversation, it comes out that Brian went to Brown. The editor went to Harvard, but he keeps yearbooks from every Ivy League school, and pulls Brian's Brown yearbook off the shelf. The editor can't find Brian's picture and Brian says he was sick on picture day. The editor then flips further back in the book and sees Brian's picture with the list of Drop-Outs and Losers.

Brian tries to cover, saying that's a mistake, but the editor realizes he's lying and that Brian never graduated from Brown. Brian is fired.

#### **Scene Six – Int. Griffins' Living Room – Night**

Brian tells the family he dropped out of Brown at the end of his last semester. His last requirement was a Chemistry class that was ridiculously hard and Brian, a little naïve, felt he'd learned everything he needed from college and left. He regrets the

decision because not having that diploma has hindered his life and held him back from living up to his potential.

Brian says he's sick of being held back, he's going to go back to college and get his diploma.

## **ACT TWO**

### **Scene One – Ext. Brown University Dorm – Day**

The family, minus Peter, drops Brian off at school. Brian is excited to be back in Academia. He looks forward to having intelligent discussions with intelligent people.

### **Scene Two – Int. Dorm Hallway - Later**

Brian sees the loud and rowdy college kids and realizes he's the only person there to actually study. He's disappointed by this, but determined not to let the other students distract him.

### **Scene Three – Int. Brian's Dorm Room – Moments Later**

Brian enters his new home. He opens his suitcase and Stewie bursts out, gasping for air. Brian asks what he's doing and Stewie tells Brian he stowed away to watch Brian fail. Brian tells Stewie he has to go. Then, Brian's new roommate walks in. He's someone Brian clearly does not want to live with, so Brian says Stewie is his roommate and there must have been a mix-up. The roommate leaves.

In order to avoid having to room with his real roommate, Brian agrees to let Stewie stay. But Stewie can only stay for as long as Brian needs him to, and he has to keep out of Brian's way. Stewie agrees to stay out of Brian's way unless he's failing

miserably and embarrassing himself. Brian accepts these terms. Brian says he'll call Lois and tell her Stewie's going to stay with him for a little while.

As he does, Stewie sits down to watch a "Hart to Hart" rerun, but the noise from the room next door is too disruptive. Stewie heads out to tell the kids to shut up.

#### **Scene Four – Int. Another Dorm Room – Moments Later**

Stewie enters to yell at the partying kids, but becomes enthralled with a student who is doing a keg stand: "How wonderful. That man's doing gymnastics!" He then spots a glow stick and joins the party.

#### **Scene Five – Ext. Griffins' House – Day**

The guys fix up a piece-of-crap van to use for their missions. The van vaguely resembles the A-Team van. Quagmire insists the paint he scammed off the guy at that garage sale is black, but it's clearly dark blue. The guys also admire the ad they've placed in the paper.

Peter tells Joe he has to get them weapons so they can do this right. Joe is reluctant because that's illegal and very dangerous. Peter threatens to kick Joe off the AAA-Team unless he delivers the goods. Joe gives in.

Over the police scanner, the guys hear a call that is right up their alley. This is it, their first mission! Peter, Cleveland and Quagmire rush into the van. The wheelchair ramp lowers and lifts Joe into the van, taking a very, very long time.

#### **Scene Six – Int. Chemistry Class – Day**

Brian's first class. The wheelchair-bound professor is a real hard-ass. He tells the students most of them will fail. He then gives a pop quiz. This is going to be harder than Brian thought.

**Scene Seven – Int. Brian's Dorm Room – Night**

Brian tries to study, but Stewie and one of his new stoner buddies are playing galvanized metal trash can toss and making a lot of noise. Brian asks them to stop and they do. They then start running into the wall at full speed to see who can bounce off further.

Brian grabs his books and heads to the library.

**Scene Eight – Int. Brown Library – Later**

The library is noisier than the dorm. Unable to study, Brian leaves.

**Scene Nine – Ext. Roof - Later**

Brian studies on the roof of a building. Suddenly, a helicopter full of rowdy, partying college kids flies overhead and starts to land. Brian throws a rock into the blades and the helicopter crashes next to the building. Brian continues to study.

**TRIPLER -- Scenes Ten - Twelve**

Peter and the guys wreak havoc around town in an attempt to do good.

They try to get a cat down from a tree by shooting through the tree to cut it down. The tree falls down and through someone's roof, sending the cat flying down the street in the process. They got the cat down, so in their eyes, this is a job well done.

The guys help an old woman cross the street by blowing away all of traffic in the area, creating a clear path across the road. The woman tells them she wasn't crossing, she was waiting for her nephew, whose car they just destroyed. Another job well done.

The guys see a house on fire. They can't put out the fire, but they say they'll make sure the neighbor's house doesn't catch on fire. The neighbor thanks them. The

guys then throw live grenades into the house, blowing it to pieces, ensuring it won't catch on fire. They drive off, another job well done.

### **Scene Thirteen – Int. Chemistry Class – Day**

Brian gets his test back. He failed. He can't believe it, he studied really hard for this test.

### **Scene Fourteen – Ext. Mr. Putts' Golf Course - Day**

The guys drive around town. Joe is a little concerned at the destruction they've been causing. The cops are starting to look for them. Peter says they're destroying things in the name of good and that will hold up in court. Cleveland and Quagmire agree. Joe isn't swayed, but shuts up because he's having a lot of fun.

They drive past Mr. Putts' Mini Golf Course ("Formerly Known as Mr. Putts' Little People Golf Course"), a favorite of the guys' when they were kids. The course is now run down and there's a "Sold" sign on the front of the building. They can't believe it. The guys stop and talk with the owner, Mr. Putts, and he tells them he sold to a construction company who wants to tear down the course and build a First Care Center.

The guys are outraged. Peter says they won't let Mr. Putts be forced out by some big company; they'll help him get his golf course back. Mr. Putts says he doesn't need or want their help. He happily sold to the company, but the guys don't hear this. Peter tells Mr. Putts not to worry – the AAA-Team is on the case.

### **Scene Fifteen – Int. Brian's Dorm Room – Day**

Brian enters holding his test, dejected. Stewie is dressed like a college kid and plays an acoustic guitar very badly. Brian tries to hide his test from Stewie, but he discovers it. Stewie mocks Brian and relishes his failure.

Brian tells Stewie to leave him alone, he has a paper to write. Stewie says Brian can't write the paper, he promised to take him to the party in Kenny's room tonight. Brian says he can't go. Stewie doesn't want to go alone, so he tells Brian he'll write the paper. He can do it in five minutes.

Brian says he didn't come here to cheat, he came here to earn his diploma.

Stewie sings a rousing musical number in which he shows Brian that everyone cheats and opens his eyes to the beauties of cheating. Stewie ultimately convinces Brian to cheat.

As the song ends we cut to:

#### **Scene Sixteen - Int. Chemistry Class – Day**

Brian hands in Stewie's paper and gets an A.

### **ACT THREE**

#### **Scene One – Int. Chemistry Class - Day**

The professor praises Brian's recent work in front of the other students. He then invites Brian to his house for a cocktail party tomorrow night. Brian happily accepts.

#### **Scene Two - Int. Brian's Dorm Room – Night**

Brian tells Stewie he's happy he cheated. He doesn't need to learn Chemistry, he just needs a good grade. Besides, Brian is intelligent and deserves the respect he's now getting from his professor.

Brian makes a deal with Stewie: he knows Stewie's having a good time, so he'll let Stewie stay and party for the rest of the semester if Stewie does Brian's Chemistry work. It's a deal.

We now see that Stewie was playing poker with several football players and the football coach. Stewie turns back to the table and wins the hand and an unknown bet.

### **Scene Three - Ext. Football Field - Day**

Close On Stewie, who laughs at winning the bet. Then, Stewie puts on a football helmet and we Widen To Reveal Stewie getting ready to kick off at a Brown football game.

### **Scene Four – Int. Construction Company Boardroom – Day**

Peter and the guys burst into the boardroom full of executives, guns drawn. They say they will not let them force out Mr. Putts and demand they return ownership of the mini golf course to him. The owner of the company says they dealt fairly with Mr. Putts, he signed a contract and they paid him very well. They've done nothing wrong.

Peter says they have twenty-four hours to pull out or there'll be hell to pay. He then fires his assault rifle as a warning, accidentally hitting one of the executives in the chest. He's down.

The guys slowly back out. As they do, Peter trips and falls backwards, spraying the ceiling with bullets. The ceiling gives way and a dead woman on a toilet seat falls into the conference room.

Peter then gently sets his automatic rifle on the floor and steps away from it. The gun goes off, spinning in a circle and shooting bullets everywhere. Several executives are hit. The guys run out.

### **Scene Five – Int. Brian's Dorm Room – Afternoon**

Brian looks at several full lab beakers on his desk. This is the latest work Stewie's done for him. Brian is happy with his plan. He then gets ready for the cocktail party.



### **Scene Six – Ext. Mr. Putts' Golf Course – Same Time**

Peter says the construction company isn't backing down, so they'll have to make a last stand and stop their bulldozers before they can tear down the course. Mr. Putts demands that they leave, but Peter tells him not to worry, they'll get his golf course back. Mr. Putts is baffled.

We go into an A-Team-esque MONTAGE where the guys use pieces of metal, wood, plastic and other scraps to build something with which to protect the course. We don't see what they're building.

### **Scene Seven – Int. Chemistry Professor's House – Night**

The cocktail party is in full swing. Brian is having a great time. He fits in well with the Academics. It's like he's back at the New Yorker. Brian loves it.

Then, Brian's professor and his wheelchair-bound wife get into a very public fight, a la "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf."

### **Scene Eight – Int. Frat House – Same Time**

A dozen frat members, including a noticeably shorter Stewie, stand cloaked before a group of scared pledges. Stewie pulls out a paddle and starts threatening the pledges.

### **Scene Nine – Int. Chemistry Professor's House – Later**

The party is still going on. Brian's professor lets Brian in on his ultimate screw-you to his students: not only is the final exam worth fifty-one percent of their grade, but he's giving the final tomorrow, in the middle of the semester.

The professor tells Brian he'll be fine, but all the other losers in the class are going to fail. Brian hides his nervousness.

**Scene Ten – Int. Sorority House – 4:00 AM**

A dozen sorority members stand in line outside a bedroom door. The door opens and a sorority girl walks out, followed by Stewie, who wears a shorty robe. He asks the waiting girls who wants to be “initiated” next.

Just then, Brian runs up. He’s been searching for Stewie for hours. Brian tells him his final is tomorrow and they have to figure out a way to cheat.

**Scene Eleven – Int. Brian’s Dorm Room – Morning**

It took all night, but they found a way to cheat. Brian wears a jacket. He opens the jacket, revealing Stewie attached to a harness on the inside of the jacket. During the test, Brian will open the jacket so Stewie can see the questions.

Brian complains about his professor. He says he makes the class so hard he essentially forces people to cheat; there’s no other way to pass.

Brian then looks down and sees Stewie has passed out. Brian tries to wake him: he shakes him, slaps him and drops him on the floor, but Stewie’s unconscious and not waking up any time soon. He’s been partying for days straight.

Brian says he can’t pass this test without Stewie. He can’t believe he’s not going to get his diploma again. Brian resigns himself to living a mediocre life. He grabs his stuff and heads home.

**Scene Twelve - Ext. Mr. Putts’ Golf Course – Same Time**

Close On the guys admiring the defense they’ve built. Widen To Reveal they’ve simply put together a gigantic useless heap of crap. Not only that, they made the contraption from pieces of the golf course (the windmill, the office building, the putters, etc.), thereby tearing down the entire golf course in the process.

The bulldozers drive up, easily demolishing the contraption. The owner of the construction company, his arm in a sling, thanks Peter and the guys for doing all the demolition work for them. They should have the First Care up by this afternoon.

The guys apologize to a still-baffled Mr. Putts for failing him, then get into the van and drive off. Right after they leave, several police cars pull up, having just missed the mysterious AAA-Team. The police Captain throws down his hat in frustration.

### **Scene Thirteen – Int. Griffins' Living Room – Day**

Peter and the guys watch TV. Tricia Takanawa reports from the grand opening of the First Care, where people are lined up to get the care they desperately need. Peter says they've failed and therefore must disband the AAA-Team. The guys agree. Peter takes off his costume and snuffs out his cigar on Joe's numb leg.

In the kitchen, Brian enters. Lois is surprised to see him and asks why he's home. Brian tells her he quit. He never would have passed his Chemistry final, so he left. Brian can't believe the same thing happened to him twice.

We see a Flashback of Brian in college several years earlier. He studies for his Chemistry final. Brian's roommate says he's been offered several jobs once he graduates. He's psyched. Not responding, Brian complains how hard his Chemistry course is. His roommate says it's hard because Brian blew off classes all semester. Brian says that's because Chemistry is a bunch of crap: he's a writer, he doesn't need to know Chemistry. Brian says this is a waste of time. He then grabs his bag and his unfinished novel and heads to the door, quitting college.

In the present, for the first time, Brian realizes he didn't leave college because he thought he'd learned everything, but because he couldn't handle the pressure that comes

with graduating from Brown. His roommate kept talking about his prospects after college and Brian knew he would have been expected to succeed, and he was so afraid of being a failure he convinced himself not to try.

Brian says he won't let that happen to him again – he's going to take that Chemistry final and he's going to graduate. Lois tells Brian the test is in twenty minutes, he'll never make it. Brian is dejected. Peter enters, back in costume, flanked by the guys. He says this is the perfect opportunity for the AAA-Team to redeem themselves. Peter tells Brian they'll get him to that test.

#### **Scene Fourteen – Ext. Griffins' Driveway – Moments Later**

Peter and Brian hurry into the van as Cleveland, Joe and Quagmire, all in costume, run excitedly to the van. Cleveland and Quagmire get in, but Joe has to wait for the ramp.

#### **Scene Fifteen – Ext. Streets – Minutes Later**

Brian only has thirteen minutes, but they're close. He's gonna make it. Then, several police cars spot the van and pursue them. Brian says it's over, but Peter says they AAA-Team never fails... more than once. He steps on the gas and an elaborate chase scene ensues, complete with gunfire exchanges and police cars hitting mounds of dirt and flipping over.

The guys finally lose the cops.

#### **Scene Sixteen – Ext. Brown - Day**

The van screeches to a halt outside Brian's class just in time. He thanks the guys and runs in to take the exam.

The guys reflect on their job well done. Then, a dozen police cars speed up and surround the van. Peter: "I just love it when a plan comes together."

**Scene Seventeen – Int. Griffins' House – Day**

Joe tells the guys he smoothed everything over with the cops and took the wrap for all the damage they caused. Since he's a cop, his punishment is a week's suspension with pay. The guys agree the AAA-Team should go out on a high note, and they hang up their costumes.

Brian opens his grades. He got a D, he passed. The family is proud of Brian and he's proud of himself. But not for the grade. He's proud that he wasn't afraid this time and he took the test. That's his real accomplishment.

Peter says if Brian had taken the test the first time he was in school, his life would have been very different. Brian doesn't think that's necessarily a good thing; he's proud to be a part of this family.

Lois asks where Stewie is.

**Scene Eighteen – Ext. Harvard Campus – Day**

Stewie and three other Brown students drag the Harvard mascot into the back of a pick-up. Stewie bangs on the side of the truck and it speeds away.

**END OF SHOW**